

District of Columbia
Department of Energy and Environment



**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
AND
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)**

Community Stormwater Solutions Evaluation and Expansion Grant
(Short name: Community Stormwater Solutions Expansion)
RFA # 2019-1924-WPD

Publication Date: 7/12/2019

Application Deadline: 8/30/2019 at 4:30pm

Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Energy and Environment
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Washington, DC 20002
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SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

The Department of Energy and Environment (“DOEE”) solicits grant applications from eligible entities (called “Applicants”). The goals of this Request for Applications (RFA) are to (1) enhance, expand, and implement the current Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program (“Program”), (2) support the positive environmental efforts of District-based small businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and educational institutions, (3) protect and enhance, directly or indirectly, the District of Columbia’s water bodies and watersheds, and (4) support the District’s emerging green economy, environmental start-ups, and social entrepreneurs through capacity-building initiatives like grant writing and management trainings. Since 2016, DOEE has awarded 41 Community Stormwater Solutions Grants totaling \$764,627, in grants that never exceed \$20,000. This is an average of 10 small grants per year. For background on this grant program, please visit <http://doee.dc.gov/service/community-stormwater-solutions-grants>.

The project period for this grant is two years, with the option of up to two additional years, for a total of four years. \$400,000 is available for the first two years for one award. The Watershed Protection Division (“WPD”) of DOEE will administer this RFA.

1.2 Purpose of the Grants

The purpose of these grants are to (1) to continue and expand DOEE’s commitment to fund innovative watershed-focused initiatives, (2) support the District’s growing green economy, and (3) to build capacity among new and low-capacity community-based organizations and small businesses. By “low-capacity,” DOEE means small organizations or businesses with limited experience or without dedicated-grant writing staff.

1.3 Source of Funds

The sources of funds for the grant are District of Columbia Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Fund and District of Columbia Stormwater Enterprise Fund.

1.4 Competition for a Grant Award

This RFA is competitive. Each Applicant must demonstrate its ability to carry out the activities for the grant for which it applies (called a “project”). A review panel will evaluate the applications for each advertised grant according to the stated list of criteria in each project’s description. The proposal/s with the highest score/s will be awarded the grant.

Specifically, grant awards will be made based on eligibility (Section 1.6), the extent to which the proposed project fits within the scope and available funding of the grant, strength of the application, and the organization’s capacity to achieve the grant’s goals.

Each Applicant may submit an application for more than one project, if applicable. If an Applicant responds to more than one project, it must do so in a separate proposal and submit all corresponding required documents.

1.5 Projects and Funds Available

DOEE seeks applications for:

Project Name	Project Amount
Community Stormwater Solutions Evaluation and Expansion Grant	\$400,000

1.6 Eligibility

The following are eligible to apply if an “x” appears:

- ☒-Nonprofit organizations, including those with IRS 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) determinations;
- ☒-Faith-based organizations;
- ☐-Government agencies;
- ☒-Universities/educational institutions; and
- ☒-Private Enterprises.

Continuing conditions of eligibility are that the information in the application is complete and truthful and that the Applicant at all times is able to meet any material conditions stated in its application. For instance, if an Applicant’s ability to fulfill the terms of the grant is based on the availability of skilled staff and those staff should leave after the application’s submittal or the grant award to the Applicant, the Applicant has the responsibility to advise DOEE in writing of this change in material conditions. Another example of change in material conditions that could result in the loss of eligibility would be the loss of the Applicant’s tax-exempt status.

1.7 Definitions

District - The District of Columbia.

Grantee - The person provided a grant by the District, including a sub-grantee.

Person - A natural person or a legal entity, including a partnership, firm, association, joint venture, public or private corporation, trust, estate, commission, board, public or private institution, cooperative, the District government and its agencies, and the federal government and its agencies.

Writing - A tangible or electronic record of a communication or representation, including handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostat, fax, photography, word processing computer output, and e-mail. A "signed" writing includes an electronic symbol or process attached to, or logically associated with a writing, and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the writing.

1.8 Permissible Use of Grant Funds

A Grantee may use grant funds only for allowable grant project expenditures. Grant funds related to work performed will be provided on a reimbursement basis, except that an advance of funds may be provided for grant administration expenses in limited circumstances for good cause approved by DOEE at its sole discretion.

1.9 Grant Monitoring

In its sole discretion, DOEE may use several methods to monitor the grant, including site visits, periodic financial reports and the collection of performance data. Each grant is subject to audit.

1.10 General Terms and Conditions

Appendix 1, "General Terms and Conditions" is incorporated by reference in this RFA. Applicants and Grantees must comply with any and all applicable terms and conditions outlined in Appendix 1.

1.11 RFA Conditions - Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances

Appendix 2, "Applicant's Promises, Certifications, and Assurances" ("PCA"), is incorporated by reference in this RFA.

1.12 DOEE's Authority to Make Grants

DOEE has grant-making authority under:

- The Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004 (D.C. Law 15-340, D.C. Official Code §§ 34-1431-40), including § 34-1436(b) and (c)
- The Water Pollution Control Act of 1984, effective March 16, 1985, as amended, (D.C. Law 5-188; D.C. Official Code § 8-103.01 *et seq.*);
- The District Department of the Environment Establishment Act of 2005, effective February 15, 2006, as amended, (D.C. Law 16-51, D.C. Official Code § 8-151.01 *et seq.*);
- The Comprehensive Stormwater Management Enhancement Amendment Act of 2008, effective March 25, 2009, (D.C. Law 17-371; D.C. Official Code § 8-152.01 *et seq.*); and
- Other applicable laws and regulations.

1.13 Conflicts between RFA and Applicable Law

If any requirement of this RFA conflicts with a provision of any applicable law, including a District or federal law or regulation, the applicable legal provision shall control.

SECTION 2. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

2.1 RFA Release Date

The release date of this RFA is 7/12/2019.

2.2 Obtaining a Copy of the RFA

A person may obtain a copy of this RFA at doee.dc.gov or by requesting a copy through any of the methods listed in Section 2.6. Please add to any note the heading “RE: RFA 2019-1924-WPD.”

2.3 Applications: When, What, and Where

When: All applications must be received at the address below by 4:30 p.m. on 8/30/2019.

Applications will be dated and recorded as “received” pending review by DOEE for completeness. DOEE considers an application to be “filed” only if all the required materials are submitted. Late or incomplete applications will be considered received, not filed.

What: The contents of the Application are specified in Section 3. Each applicant must submit:

Five paper copies of the application; **OR**

One electronic copy.

The Department will not receive faxed copies.

Where: The paper copies must be filed with DOEE at the following address:

District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment

**RFA – Grants
1200 First Street NE
5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002**

Attn: RFA 2019-1924-WPD

Email an electronic copy, formatted as a .pdf file, to: communitystormwater.expansion@dc.gov

2.4 Award Announcement

DOEE expects to notify each Applicant in writing of its award status within six to twelve weeks after the application due date.

2.5 Updates and Questions and Answers (Q & A)

Additional information may become available before the application is due. It is the Applicant's responsibility to stay up-to-date on the status and requirements of the grant for which it is applying.

DOEE welcomes questions seeking clarification of matters in this RFA. Questions about the RFA should be sent to communitystormwater.expansion@dc.gov with "RE: RFA 2019-1924-WPD" in the subject line.

DOEE will publish updates and Questions and Answers (Q&A) regarding the RFA at doee.dc.gov. DOEE will also create an email list to send updates and information regarding the RFA. A person can be put on the email list by immediately emailing communitystormwater.expansion@dc.gov with the subject line "RE: RFA 2019-1924-WPD – Add me to the email list."

DOEE will provide the information to those on the email list at the same time the information is uploaded to the DOEE website. Paper copy updates will be available for pickup at DOEE's offices by appointment. DOEE will not mail out updates or Q&A materials.

The cut-off date for receipt of any questions is one week prior to the application deadline.

2.6 DOEE Contacts

DOEE can be contacted about this RFA (use the RFA's short name and number whenever possible) by:

- (a) **Emailing** communitystormwater.expansion@dc.gov with "RE: RFA 2019-1924-WPD" in the subject line;
- (b) **In person** by making an appointment with (Emily Rice at (202) 535-2679 and mention this RFA by name); or
- (c) **Write** DOEE at 1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20002, Attention: Emily Rice RE: RFA 2019-1924-WPD on the envelope.

SECTION 3. APPLICATION CONTENT

3.1 Format

Proposals must be formatted as follows:

- (a) Use plain, white, 8 ½” x 11” recycled paper with one-inch margins.
- (b) Applications should be double-sided to the extent possible;
- (c) Limit each project description to 10 double-spaced pages. Budget tables, flowcharts, photographs, the work plan, and other supporting documentation may be attached in addition to the project description
- (d) Staple the application in the top left-hand corner. Do not use a plastic cover or other form of binding.

3.2 Proposal Content

DOEE intends to fund a project that will benefit the environment, and, in particular, the environment of the District. The proposal should use the following format and explain, in increasing levels of detail, how the Applicant will accomplish this.

(Note: Before drafting the proposal, please read the project description very carefully to see if there are restrictions for the DOEE grant. For instance, certain activities might be required to take place in the District or the scoring might give extra points to labor sourced in the District.)

(a) Cover Sheet

Include a cover sheet in the format specified in Appendix 3. Make certain that the funding amount requested on the cover sheet matches total amount requested in your budget and budget narrative.

(b) Project Summary

Provide a brief one paragraph summary that explains the project. This summary is not part of the 10-page proposal limit.

(c) Project Description

Organize this 10-page section of your application in accordance with the elements described in Section 7.2.2 and the scoring rubric of section 7 of this RFA. Be sure to review the required

Program characteristics in Section 7.2.3. As an exposition to the specific items in the scoring rubric and Section 7.2.2, state the following at the start of the proposal:

(1) Purpose and Objectives

State how this project will benefit the environment and the specific objectives this project will achieve.

(2) Target Audience

Identify the target audience. Who will this project engage? Who will benefit from the project?

(3) Project Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities

The proposal should connect the funded activities to quantifiable outputs and ultimately desired outcomes. This enables reviewers to evaluate what the proposed project will achieve if funded.

Activities are undertaken to achieve the outputs and outcomes. For example, a proposal could request funding to support a tree-planting activity in a city. This activity will yield a quantifiable output.

An **output** is a short-term result achieved as a result of an activity. For example, at the end of the project period, after several sessions of tree-planting, *X* number of trees will be in the city. This quantifiable output will yield various project outcomes.

A **project outcome** is a medium to long-term result that occurs and/or continues after the project ends. For example, after several sessions of tree-planting activities, this project yielded an output of *X* number of trees planted in the city. Medium to long-term outcomes of this project include: beautification of the city, increased environmental awareness of residents, and improved air quality.

(4) Methods

Describe how activities will be accomplished.

(5) Measurement of Project Success

Provide quantifiable measurements. For example, a tree planting project might measure the number and kinds of trees planted. A trash removal project might measure the pounds of trash removed. A stormwater project might measure the amount of stormwater captured.

(6) Project Budget

You must submit a numeric budget and a separate budget narrative as part of your application package. For the numeric budget, DOEE strongly urges applicants to use the budget template format provided (Appendix 4). The budget narrative must explain and justify every line item in the numeric budget. The explanation should be thorough enough to allow a reviewer to understand why expenditure levels were chosen and how the line item amounts were derived. For example: “personnel will be paid \$xx per hour times xx hours.”

If the Applicant seeks an advance payment, it must request advance payment in its proposal and explain why an advance payment is requested. See Section 6.2.

Resources provided by the applicant should appear in the column titled “Non-DOEE Match,” meaning the Applicant intends to provide the indicated resources (i.e., the “match,” and that the resources do not come from DOEE). Entries in this column could include both dollars and the value of the in-kind contributions. For example, in-kind contributions can include staff time, volunteer services, already-paid licensing fees, materials, supplies, and the use of equipment or real estate.

Volunteer hours provided to a grantee or sub-grantee must be valued at rates consistent with those the Applicant’s organization ordinarily pays for similar work, including salary and fringes. If the grantee or a sub-grantee does not have employees performing similar work, the rates must be valued the same as rates ordinarily paid by employers in the same labor market for similar work.

The Applicant must verify that all costs in the budget are allowable.

Typical allowable costs are:

1. Rental of office space, some vehicles, and some equipment;
2. Employee salaries and benefits;
3. Contractor labor, including professional services;
4. Accounting and bookkeeping services;
5. Communications, including telephone and data services;
6. Printing, reproduction, including signage;
7. Materials and supplies;
8. Computers and printers;
9. Small tools;
10. Some field equipment, typically below \$5,000 in value;
11. Postage and shipping;
12. Necessary travel, meals and lodging; and
13. Insurance.

Non-Allowable costs include:

1. Most major equipment, like vehicles;
2. Lobbying, including salaries and overheads and out-of-pocket expenses;
3. Entertainment;
4. Interest payments on loans;
5. Most food; and
6. Land purchases.

DOEE will require documentation for grant payments, and the entire grant will be subject to audit.

(d) Applicant

(1) Organization

Describe the organization's history, mission, and current or past projects that demonstrate the organization's capacity to achieve the project's goals. This section should be limited to one page. To provide further information, the Applicant can reference its website or attach organizational brochure or resume.

(2) Key personnel

Identify the key team members for the project and provide brief biographies or their resumes. The team members can be staff, volunteers or contractors.

(3) Past performance on District Grants/Contracts

Identify District agencies from which the Applicant has received funding as a contractor, grantee, or partner in the past five years and provide specific information including:

- The grant(s) or contract(s) title;
- The District agency/agencies;
- The grant number(s), contract number(s), or other identifier(s);
- The amount(s) paid; and
- What was accomplished as a result of the funding(s).

Briefly describe any disputes, investigations, or audits related to any of these District grants or contracts, grants, or partnerships in the past five years.

(4) Partners

Sometimes partnerships can improve the success of a project. These partnerships might be with government agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), companies, or individuals. If a partner is to be involved in the project, the Applicant must describe the partner's involvement and resource commitments. The proposal must identify and attach a letter of support on the partner's letterhead, signed by an authorized official if the partner is a government agency, NGO, or business entity.

In lieu of a letter, an Applicant may attach an email from the partner (or an authorized official if the partner is a government agency, NGO, or business entity) that states support of the project and identifies the partner's name, address, website, and a contact name, telephone number, and email address.

For the following types of partners, provide the documentation indicated.

i. District of Columbia Public Schools

If the Applicant will work with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), it must include a letter of support from the principal of each school with which it will work, and, if available, from each participating teacher. Teachers and principals may send a joint letter.

ii. Property Owner

If the Applicant will work on public land, it must submit a letter of support from the managing agency. Similarly, if the Applicant is to work on private land, it must submit a letter of support from each property owner. If the project includes construction or installation, the letter must acknowledge that the property owner will be responsible (either directly or through an agreement with another entity) for project maintenance.

iii. Partnering Organization

If the Applicant has identified a project partner, it must include a letter of intent from the collaborating organization(s) agreeing to participate in the proposed project, describing the partner's involvement and resource commitments, and explaining the activities and/or services the partner will provide. The letter should demonstrate that the partnering organization understands the project presented for funding and the activities and/or services that the partner will provide. The Applicant must submit the partnering organization's Certificate of Good Standing (from the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs) and documentation of the partner's tax exempt status.

iv. National Park Service

Projects that would be carried out on National Park Service (NPS) property will require NPS permission. Sometimes the paperwork supporting such permission takes extra time to complete. DOEE will accept more informal statements generated by responsible NPS officials, including emails.

3.3 Work Plan

The application must include a proposed work plan that describes the timeline for project implementation.

3.4 Required Documents

Each of the following documents must be filed as part of the proposal package. If the document is not in this filing, DOEE may classify the grant application as “received” but not “filed,” as specified in Section 2.3. However, if a government agency must issue a required document, and the Applicant has requested the document but not received it, DOEE may accept a copy of the Applicant’s request to the agency for the purpose of deeming the Application “filed.”

(a) Certificate of Good Standing

Each Applicant must submit a current Certificate of Good Standing from the District Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. DOEE requires that the submitted Certificate of Good Standing reflect a date within a six-month period immediately preceding the application’s submission.

(b) Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances

Each Applicant must sign and submit the “Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances” (“PCA”) in Appendix 2. Signing the PCA is a condition of eligibility for this grant. If the Applicant is not prepared to sign the PCA, it should not apply for a grant. Compliance with the promises, certifications, and assurances in the PCA is a continuing condition of eligibility for this grant.

The PCA must be signed by the Applicant or, if the Applicant is an organization, by a duly authorized officer of the organization.

The PCA also includes a sworn statement verifying that the Applicant is not in arrears (i.e. is “current”) on all obligations outstanding to the District, including all District agencies. The Applicant must be “current” as of the date of the application and the date of a grant award. DOEE requires, as a condition of continuing eligibility, that a grantee stay current on such obligations during the period of the grant.

(c) IRS W-9 Tax Form

The Applicant must submit a current completed W-9 form prepared for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). DOEE defines “current” to mean that the document was completed within the same calendar year as that of the application date.

(d) Tax Exemption Affirmation Letter

The tax exemption affirmation letter is the IRS’s determination letter of non-profit status. If this letter is not available, then the Applicant should provide its most recent IRS Form 990 tax return, if one was submitted. If no return has yet been filed, the organization can submit its application for tax-exempt status. If the group has a supporting organization with an IRS tax-exempt status determination, then that organization’s tax exemption affirmation letter should also be submitted.

If there is no IRS tax exemption affirmation letter because the organization is a religious organization, then the Applicant may submit the best evidence it can of its status. Examples of potential best evidence for this purpose include, but are not limited to (i) a letter from the leader of the organization verifying that the organization is a religious group; (ii) a letter from the group’s board chair or similar official, verifying that the organization is a religious group; (iii) the Applicant’s most recently submitted state sales or other tax exemption form, if it exists (Form 164 in the District of Columbia); or (iv) the state’s issued tax exemption certificate or card, if it exists. (*See IRS publication no. 1828, Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations.*)

(e) Applicant’s Current Fiscal Year Budget

The Applicant must submit its full budget, including projected income, for the current fiscal year, using a format at least as detailed as that presented in Appendix 4. Also, the Applicant should submit a comparison of budgeted versus actual income and expenses of the fiscal year to date.

(f) Applicant’s Financial Statements

If the Applicant has undergone an audit or financial review, it must provide the most recent audited financial statements or reviews. If audited financial statements or reviews are not available, the Applicant must provide its most recent complete year’s unaudited financial statements.

(g) Separation of Duties Policy

The Applicant must state how the organization separates financial transactions and duties among people within the organization in order to prevent fraud or waste. This may be a statement that already exists as a formal policy of the organization, or the Applicant may create the statement for purposes of the application. The applicant should state which of these situations apply.

This statement should:

- Describe how financial transactions are handled and recorded;
- Provide the names and titles of personnel involved in handling money;
- Identify how many signatures the financial institution(s) require on the organization's checks and withdrawal slips; and,
- Address other limits on staff and board members' handling of the organization's money.

(h) System for Award Management (SAM) with federal government

If a project within this RFA is funded wholly or partially by federal funding sources, applicants for that project must be registered in the System for Award Management at www.sam.gov and provide evidence of this registration as part of its application package to DOEE.

(i) Partner Documents

The Applicant must submit the partnering organization's Certificate of Good Standing (from the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs) and documentation of the partner's tax exempt status.

SECTION 4. Review Panel and Application Scoring

4.1 Review Panel

This is a competitive grant. The review panel for the RFA will be composed of individuals with knowledge in the areas directly related to the RFA. The review panel will review, score and rank each Applicant's proposal.

The panel will recommend the top scorer for award of the grant.

Review panels vary in size, but typically are made up of three to five people. At least two members of the review panel will be from DOEE staff. Whenever practicable, each panel will include at least one person from outside of DOEE.

4.2 Scoring Criteria

The reviewers score each proposal according to a list of criteria and the points available for each criterion. See section 7 of each project.

The applicant should read the grant description carefully to determine if matching funds or resources are required or if preference points are offered for matching funds.

SECTION 5. GRANTEE DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Submissions If Applicant Will Receive the Grant

Upon acceptance of a grant award, the Grantee must provide the following documents.

(a) Certificate of Insurance

The Grantee shall submit a certificate of insurance giving evidence of the required coverage outlined in Appendix 1, General Terms and Conditions. DOEE will presume that the budget covers the cost of this required insurance and will not later adjust the grant award for this amount.

(b) Assurance of Continued Truth and Accuracy

Upon acceptance of the grant award the Grantee shall notify DOEE of any changes that may have occurred to its organization since the time of submission of its original application. See also Section 1.6.

SECTION 6. FILING REQUIREMENTS GENERAL PROVISIONS

6.1 Reporting Requirements

The grantee must submit the following reports as a condition of continuing eligibility for funding.

(a) Quarterly Status Reports

DOEE will provide a quarterly status report template with the grant award. These reports, which discuss grant activities for the preceding quarter, will be due on each of the following dates.

Quarter 1 (January - March):	April 15
Quarter 2 (April - June):	July 15
Quarter 3 (July - September):	October 15
Quarter 4 (October - December):	January 15

If a report's due date falls on a weekend or District holiday, the report will be due the next business day.

The report must detail: actions taken in the quarter preceding the report date, highlight outputs achieved, provide a financial update, and describe unforeseen changes to project timetable, staffing, or partnerships, as well as any other changes that may affect project outcomes.

(b) Final Report

DOEE will provide a final report template with the grant award. This report includes quantification by the grantee of the project's outputs and describes the extent to which project outcomes met or will meet the objectives of the funded proposal. The template requires submission of data and analysis of the data.

6.2 Reimbursement of Project Expenditures and Disbursement of Funds

DOEE will not reimburse the Grantee for any work undertaken before DOEE notifies the recipient of the final award of the grant.

DOEE will reimburse the Grantee only for expenditures incurred to perform work under the grant. In limited cases, DOEE may advance funds at the beginning of the grant period for good cause approved by DOEE at its sole discretion. If the Applicant seeks an advance payment, it must request such payment in its proposal and explain why an advance payment is being requested.

DOEE operates on the District's fiscal year, which starts October 1 of a calendar year and ends September 30 of the next calendar year. The grantee may submit a reimbursement request or an

invoice at any time during the fiscal year for work performed within that same fiscal year. Each request/invoice must include supporting documentation.

Reimbursements will be mailed to the address on file for the grantee. DOEE may make electronic payments in lieu of mailing checks. DOEE generally pays grant invoices 30 days after DOEE receives them.

DOEE will withhold the final 10% invoiced under a grant until all required activities have been completed, including receipt of the final report.

SECTION 7. PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR GRANT FUNDING

7.1 Summary: Project Title and Available Funds

Project Name

Community Stormwater Solutions Evaluation and Expansion Grant

Introduction

Since 2016, DOEE has managed a program to offer Community Stormwater Solutions Grants to District-based small businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and other entities to propose and execute creative, community-oriented and –inspired projects to meet the Program’s objectives to (1) reduce water pollution from trash and polluted runoff, (2) raise water quality awareness, (3) promote behavior changes in District community members, and (4) support the District’s emerging green economy, environmental start-ups, and social entrepreneurs. To date, DOEE has awarded 41 small subgrants totaling \$764,627.

DOEE is seeking proposals to evaluate the Program, research best practices, work with DOEE to enhance the Program, manage the improved Program by awarding subgrants, and expand the Program’s effectiveness. Part of the improvement may be building the capacity of potential Program grantees through grant writing and management trainings. DOEE’s intent is to establish a four-year relationship with the successful grantee. Program changes are subject to DOEE approval.

Terms for Section 7

A “**meaningful engagement strategy**” means one driving project deliverables and outcomes to reflect and respond to the target community’s needs and goals.

“**Program**” refers to the Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program.

“**Program grantees**” refers to entities that received a small Community Stormwater Solutions Grant.

“**Small subgrant**” refers to a project funded by a Community Stormwater Solutions Grant. In the past one of these was a “small grant”.

“**Grantee**” refers to the entity that receives the Community Stormwater Solutions Evaluation and Expansion Grant.

“**Applicant**” refers to an entity applying for this RFA.

Project Period

The project period is two years, with the option of up to two additional years, for a total of four years.

Available Funding

\$400,000 is available for the two-year grant, with the option to extend an additional two years for a total of \$800,000 for four years. DOEE has budgeted \$200,000 for the first year.

The project period and funding are subject to availability of funds. The grant period may be extended past the second year and/or funds may be increased, based on the availability of funds, the grantee's performance, the grantee's capacity to maintain or increase the scope of work, and the District's need for the scope of work to be maintained or increased. The award amount could increase or decrease in year two and following.

To maximize the amount of funding going directly to community partners through small subgrants, DOEE highly encourages an applicant for this grant to find matching funds to cover, at least partially, the costs of administering the proposed program.

Available Funding

\$400,000

7.2 Project Description

7.2.1 DOEE is looking for innovative ways to enhance the Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program. DOEE expects to choose one entity for this project. A team may apply, with a lead to serve as the grantee.

7.2.2 A proposal should address the elements below.

1. **An evaluation strategy for how the applicant will assess the existing Program.** To learn more about previous Program Requests for Proposals (RFAs), visit the DOEE Grants and Funding archives page: <https://doee.dc.gov/page/grants-and-other-funding> and to read about past and current grantees: <https://doee.dc.gov/service/community-stormwater-solutions-grants>.
2. **A robust outreach and meaningful engagement plan** that addresses how the applicant will build relationships with potential Program grantees. Outreach and meaningful engagement should go beyond existing grantees.
3. **A detailed plan for how the applicant will compete funding opportunities** to potential Program grantees in order to better achieve Program objectives.

This plan should address:

- a. A fair and transparent public competition for applications and the selection of grantees. A fair and transparent selection process must address

conflicts of interest and maintain the confidentiality of applications. The application system should promote accessibility to, and for, lower-capacity applicants.

- b. How the applicant will encourage capacity-building, particularly for entities that might not otherwise apply for a grant. DOEE has been successful in the past implementing pre-application meetings, grant writing workshops, and post-award support.
4. **A description of how the applicant will execute the plan.** The applicant should describe its staffing and connect staff capabilities with the plan's activities.

7.2.3 While improvements to the Program are welcome, the following Program characteristics are required and must remain.

1. A project that a small subgrant funds must be located in the District.
2. Each program grantee must be physically located in the District.
3. A small subgrant shall not to replace funding for a grantee's existing program, activity, or general operating funding.
4. Each small subgrant must advance the objectives of the Program (stated in the Introduction of Section 7). DOEE has funded projects to:
 - a. Install green infrastructure.
 - b. Maintain existing green infrastructure.
 - c. Support the District's emerging green economy, environmental start-ups, and social entrepreneurs.
 - d. Restore natural habitat.
 - e. Clean up an area affected by high volumes of litter and address causes of litter.
 - f. Reduce sources of pollution to District water bodies.
 - g. Engage communities, raise awareness, and bring about behavior change on issues impacting water quality, including stormwater management, trash, pollution prevention, and watershed restoration.

5. A small subgrant application must be awarded additional evaluation points if the proposed project would benefit the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) or the Anacostia Watershed.
6. Each year DOEE defines special focus areas for the Program. For example, in 2019, the special focus areas were projects that support (1) restoration of, access to, and environmental education at, and in the neighborhoods surrounding, Kingman and Heritage Islands and (2) watershed restoration and community engagement projects that benefit local streams, build climate resilience, and improve downstream water quality in DOEE's [Targeted Subwatersheds](#). (The grantee will consult with DOEE to determine special focus areas for each funding year's Program.
7. A small subgrant must produce a quantifiable improvement to water quality or lead to a related behavior change (e.g. plant 100 trees, reduce 1,000 gallons of stormwater runoff, or engage 500 people in stewardship activities).
8. An ideal small subgrant should do one or more of the following:
 - a. Test a new concept.
 - b. Have the potential to be replicated to wider audiences, if successful.
 - c. Employ meaningful engagement strategy with one or more communities. DOEE recognizes that meaningful engagement requires significant staff time for planning, outreach, recruitment, engagement, and post-engagement activities. Small subgrant budgets should reflect this.
 - d. Use art or another creative solution to communicate the message or create the result.
 - e. Further existing efforts to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff that can be implemented without requiring significant effort or support by DOEE program staff.

7.3 Project Deliverables

Deliverables

A grantee must produce at least the following deliverables.

1. A completed evaluation of the Program, including innovative recommendations for changes that reflect community needs and help further the Program objectives found in the Introduction to this Section.

2. An outreach and engagement plan that addresses barriers to entities that have not previously received a Program small subgrant.
3. A report that details the year's Program small subgrants.
4. Awards by April of 2020.
5. Quarterly progress reports.
6. A final report for the grant period.

Proposal Scoring

All proposals will be scored according to the criteria below.

Scoring Criteria	Points
Presents a clear and feasible plan and schedule.	20
Presents a detailed, numeric budget and budget narrative that includes a clear justification for the funds requested.	10
Budget includes matching funds that will cover, at least partially, the costs of administering the program.	10
Demonstrates deep experience in environmental or social program implementation, or in management of a grants program.	20
Shows the staffing capacity to excellently administer the Program.	20
Demonstrates deep experience in environmental or social program evaluation and improvement.	10
Demonstrates deep experience in nonprofit and business capacity-building.	10
Additional points will be awarded for local entities. See Appendix 5.	5

SECTION 8. CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS

<p>Instructions for applicants: Ensure that the answers to all of the questions below are answered. In the column to the right, indicate Yes, No, or NA for not applicable. Include this completed document with application submission.</p>		
1.	Is the cover sheet (appendix 3) completed and signed – and included as part of the application?	
2.	Is a Table of Contents included in the application?	
3.	Is the applying organization eligible for funding from DOEE according to section 1.6 of the RFA?	
4.	Is the proposal formatted in accordance with section 3.1 of the RFA?	
5.	Does the proposal include a project description and all of the information required of the scoring rubric outlined in section 7 of the RFA?	
6.	Is a numeric budget, and budget narrative justifying each line item, included in the application?	
7.	Do the line items in the proposal budget consider the allowable and non-allowable costs in section 3.2 of the RFA?	
8.	Does the application package include the first page and signed last page of the DOEE Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances?	
9.	Does the application package include a Certificate of Good Standing that reflects a date within 6 months of the deadline date?	
10.	Does the application package include IRS W-9 Tax Form?	
11.	Does the application package include a Tax Exemption Affirmation Letter?	
12.	Does the application package include the applicant's current fiscal year budget?	
13.	Does the application package include the applicant's most recent	

	audited financial statements?	
14.	Does the application package include a Separation of Duties Policy as described in section 3.4.g. of the RFA?	
15.	Is the applicant registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)?	
16.	If applicable, does the application package include letters of support from other entities?	
17.	If applicable, does the application include resumes of key personnel mentioned in the proposal?	

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – General Terms and Conditions

Appendix 2 – Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances

Appendix 3 – Cover Sheet

Appendix 4 – Example of Grant Budget

Appendix 5 – Points for Local Entities